

Applicants:

Serial No.: 09/783,228

Filed: February 14, 2001

Group Art Unit: 1741

Examiner: Edna Wong

) Richard Zimmermann

Commissioner for Patents
Box: Non-Fee Amendment
Washington, D.C. 20231

Before examining the above-referenced application, please enter the following amendments and consider the following remarks:

Please amend the specification by inserting before the first line the sentence:

-- This is a Divisional of U.S. Application Serial No.
09/783,228, filed February 14, 2001. --

In the Claims:

Please cancel claims 1-14 without prejudice and amend claim 15 in the following manner:

-- 15. (Amended) A procedure for the electrolytic dissociation of water comprising the following process steps:

a.) preparing a bipolar electrode with a semiconductor coating, comprising an anode and a cathode, said anode and cathode displaced apart from one another, said cathode and anode comprising a body material selected from the group consisting of elements of the main groups III, IV and the groups 4-7 of the periodic system or mixtures thereof, and a semiconductor coating on the outer surface of said anode body, said semiconductor coating selected from the group consisting of at least one element of groups 4-7 of the periodic system;

b) inserting the bipolar electrode into an appropriate electrolyte within a container;

(c) adjusting the pH value of the electrolyte to a pH of about 13-14;

(d) applying a direct current voltage to the bipolar electrodes;

(e) continuously circulating the electrolyte liquid by means of a circulation apparatus; and

(f) discharging the gases evolved at the electrodes by means of a pair of gas lines. --

A marked-up version of the amendments to claim 15 is attached hereto as Appendix A.


REMARKS

By way of this preliminary amendment, the specification has been amended for clarity. It is respectfully submitted that all pending claims are in condition for allowance and early notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

MARSHALL, GERSTEIN & BORUN
6300 Sears Tower
233 South Wacker Drive
Chicago, Illinois 60606
(312) 474-6300

By:



Carl E. Moore, Jr.
Registration No.: 26,487
Attorney for Applicants

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**MARKED-UP VERSION OF
AMENDED CLAIM 15**

Attorney Docket No.

28605/37074A

28605/37074A

Please amend claim 15 in the following manner:

-- 15. (Amended) A procedure for the electrolytic dissociation of water [employing a bipolar electrode in accordance with claim 1], comprising the following process steps:

a.) preparing a bipolar electrode with a semiconductor coating, comprising an anode and a cathode, said anode and cathode displaced apart from one another, said cathode and anode comprising a body material selected from the group consisting of elements of the main groups III, IV and the groups 4-7 of the periodic system or mixtures thereof, and a semiconductor coating on the outer surface of said anode body, said semiconductor coating selected from the group consisting of at least one element of groups 4-7 of the periodic system [in accordance with claim 1];

b) inserting the bipolar electrode into an appropriate electrolyte within a container;

(c) adjusting the pH value of the electrolyte to a pH of about 13-14;

(d) applying a direct current voltage to the bipolar electrodes;

(e) continuously circulating the electrolyte liquid by means of a circulation apparatus; and

(f) discharging the gases evolved at the electrodes by means of a pair of gas lines. --